**SOIL DETECTIVES **

**We are going to be exploring the soil in our Kitchen Garden in a number of activities. The health of our soil affects the fruit and vegetables that we can grow in it. Today you will investigate some soil from TWO places – our compost bins and some soil that YOU HAVE COLLECTED from the garden.**

* **Select a garden bed to take a soil sample from. This sample should be about 2 or 3 scoops of soil and be placed on the metal tray. Where have you taken your soil sample from? Write down the location in the Soil #1 box.**

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|  | **SOIL # 1** | **SOIL # 2** |
| **Where did this soil come from?** |  | **Compost Bin** |
| **What colour is the soil? Is it dark or light in colour?** |  |  |
| **What does the soil smell like?** |  |  |
| **What do you see in the soil?** |  |  |
| **Draw a picture of what you see in the soil when you use a MAGNIFYING GLASS.** |  |  |
|  | **SOIL # 1** | **SOIL # 2** |
| **Now take a small amount of soil and add a little water if it is NOT moist. Make a ball with the soil. Now rub the soil ball between your thumb and forefingers. What does it feel like? Gritty, smooth, sticky?** |  |  |
| **Try making a sausage with the soil by rolling it between your fingers and thumb. Does it fall apart easily or does it hold together very well.** |  |  |

* **Take a look at the Compost Critters Sheet. Can you spot any of these critters in your soil? Write down your FAVOURITE one and a fact about it. You can DRAW it too if you like.**

